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(71) Applicant: MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP

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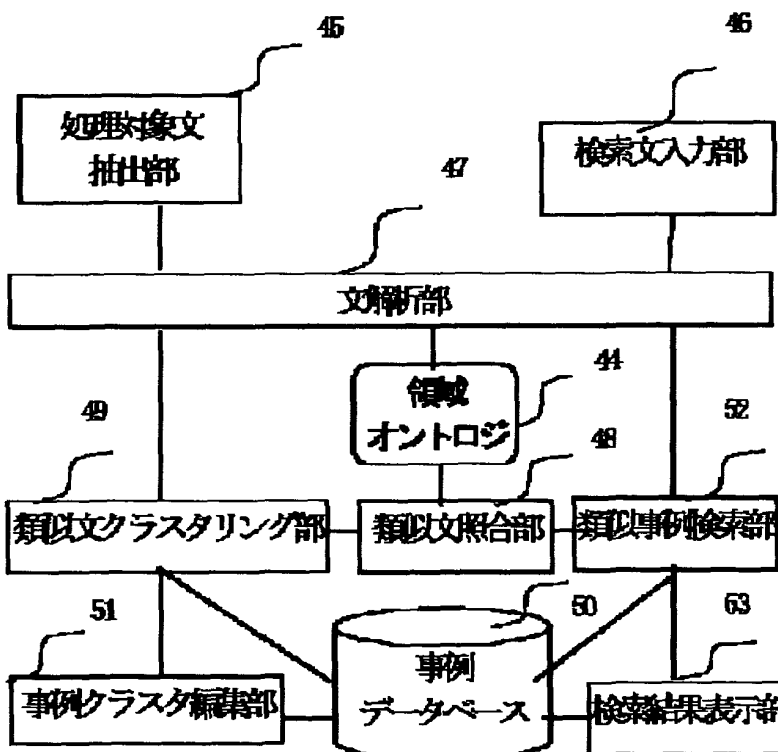
(74) Representative:

**(54) METHOD AND
DEVICE FOR INSTANCE
STORAGE AND
RETRIEVAL, COMPUTER
READABLE RECORDING
MEDIUM FOR
RECORDING INSTANCE
STORAGE PROGRAM,
AND COMPUTER
READABLE RECORDING
MEDIUM FOR
RECORDING INSTANCE
RETRIEVAL PROGRAM**

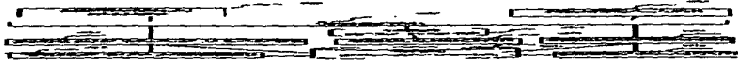
(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain instance storage and retrieval techniques which facilitate the solution of a problem by similar instance retrieval even in the case of a complicated instance consisting of plural instance sentences where an instance storage and retrieval object is described in a natural language.

SOLUTION: A processing object sentence extraction means 45, a similar sentence clustering means 49, and a similar instance retrieval means 52 are provided. The means 45 segments individual instance sentences in each classification from



an electronic document, and the means 49 classifies similar instance sentences on the basis of syntax structural and semantic similarities between instance sentences, which a similar sentence collation means 48 uses an area ontology (instance storage and retrieval object area-dependent knowledge) 44 to obtain, and generates similar instance data to store it in an instance data base, and the means 52 retrieves similar instance sentences resembling the retrieval sentence from the instance data base on the basis of similarities, which are obtained by the similar sentence collation means 48, between the input retrieval sentence and individual instance sentences.



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